

**Standard 12.2.1** Students discuss the meaning and importance of each of the rights guaranteed under the Bill of Rights and how each is secured (e.g., freedom of religion, speech, press, assembly, petition, privacy).

# MY CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS

**Standard 12.5.1** Students understand the changing interpretations of the Bill of Rights over time, including interpretations of the basic freedoms (religion, speech, press, petition, and assembly) articulated in the First Amendment and the due process and equal-protection-of-the-law clauses of the Fourteenth Amendment.

**Purpose of Assignment:** Students will recognize that many of the rights guaranteed by the Constitution are still being reviewed, revised, and used everyday throughout the United States. Some of the rights that are listed will make more sense as we continue with the semester.

## Details of Assignment (You must have ALL-FOLLOW ALL DIRECTIONS-READ CAREFULLY!)

1. Your assignment **must be placed in a small 3 ring binder, or you may have it bound.**
2. A cover must be included Be creative. Your cover should illustrate some of your Constitutional Rights.
3. Include a title page with: Title, your name, period, and date.
4. Include a table of contents, listing the rights you have completed, **including typed page numbers.**
5. Student will select one article from the internet, newspapers, or magazines for each of the thirty (30) rights. **THE RIGHTS MUST COME FROM THIS SCHOOL YEAR (SEPT-JUNE) You may only use 5 that are not from the time period!!!!**
6. Underline or hi-light that part of the article that directly relates to the liberty or right.
7. Indicate the source from which you obtained your article. Include the page and date.

Example: Orange County Register, Local 3, September 9, 2011  
Newsweek, p.44-47, June 5, 2011

<http://ocregister.com/thisismycivicsarticle.html>

## 8. **Title each page with the amendment you are covering. (eg. Amendment I- Freedom of Petition)**

9. Writing Expectations! **VERY IMPORTANT TO FOLLOW THE DIRECTIONS**
  - a. Give a brief synopsis of what the right protects? (Introductory Paragraph-Paragraph 1)
  - b. Summarize each article briefly (What happened in the article) (Paragraph 2)
  - c. State how each article demonstrates the particular right or liberty. (Why is it important-Paragraph 3)
  - d. Conclusion paragraph (Paragraph 4)
  - e. Must be a United States case!
10. Use the attached sample as a guide. Please make sure each page (liberty/right) has a title, a copy or the original article, its source and date, and a summary of the article.
11. **The project must be typed, or you will receive no credit!**
12. **List of Rights/Liberties to be used**

- a. Amendment I (1791)
  1. Freedom of Religion.
  2. Freedom of Speech.
  3. Freedom of the Press.
  4. Freedom of assembly.
  5. Freedom of petition.
- b. Amendment II (1791)
  6. Right to keep and bear arms.
- c. Amendment IV (1791)
  7. Freedom from unreasonable searches and seizures.
  8. Government must have a search warrant based on probable cause.
- d. Amendment V (1791)
  9. The accused must have a Grand Jury Indictment in capital cases.
  10. The accused can't be tried for the same crime twice (double jeopardy).
  11. Right not to testify against oneself (self-incrimination).
  12. The accused must have due process of law (fair procedures, fair laws).
  13. Private property will not be taken without just compensation (eminent domain).

- e. Amendment VI (1791)
  - 14. Right to a speedy and public trial.
  - 15. Trial by impartial (fair) jury where the crime was committed.
  - 16. Accused must be informed of the nature of the crime.
  - 17. Accused must be confronted by witness in a court.
  - 18. Accused has a right to a lawyer.
- f. Amendment VII (1791)
  - 19. Right to trial by jury.
- g. Amendment VIII (1791)
  - 20. Bail must be fair (appropriate for the crime committed).
  - 21. Punishment for the crime must not be cruel or unusual.
- h. Amendment IX (1791)
  - 22. All powers not stated in the Constitution are given to the people.
- i. Amendment XIII (1865)
  - 23. Neither slavery, nor involuntary (against one's will) servitude shall exist (abolished slavery).
- j. Amendment XIV (1868)
  - 24. Each citizen is entitled to equal protection under the law (everyone to be treated equally).
- k. Amendment XV (1870)
  - 25. Each citizen has the right to vote regardless of his race, color, or religion.
- l. Amendment XIX (1920)
  - 26. Each citizen has the right to vote regardless of sex (women's right to vote).
- m. Amendment XXIV (1964)
  - 27. Eliminate poll taxes and literacy tests as requirement for voting.
- n. Amendment XXVI (1971)
  - 28. Lowered voting age from 21 to 18.
- o. Article I, section 9, subsection 2
  - 29. The writ of habeas corpus shall not be suspended (government must show cause why accused should not be released).
- p. Article III, section 3, subsection 1
  - 30. Treason may be charged if at least two witnesses sight the treason, or a confession is given by the accused.

**This assignment is worth 10% of your grade.** Your grade will be based on the level of completeness, the accuracy of all the information, and the neatness and creativity of your project. **The deadline for this assignment will be stated by the teacher on the first few days of school.** No late work will be accepted. It must be turned in on or before the deadline date. If you have any questions, comments or you need some clarification, please make an appointment to see me.

**Hint:** Do a few articles a week and this project will not be overwhelming, it will be quite easy. If you wait until the last minute, you will not be able to complete the assignment. **DO NOT PROCRASTINATE!** This is being assigned on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of the semester, the deadline is not until a few weeks before the final, **DON'T WAIT!**

# Arizona puts killer to death

Inmate fought to be executed after 1987 crime spree.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

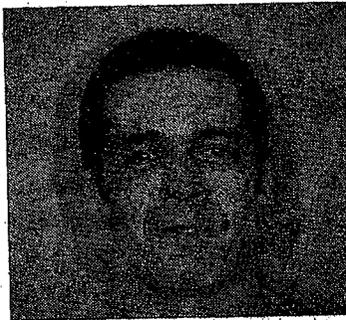
FLORENCE, ARIZ. • A condemned killer who fought to drop his appeals, saying he owed it to his victims, was executed Tuesday by injection.

Robert Charles Comer, 50, was the first inmate put to death in Arizona since 2000. He had been convicted for a 1987 crime spree in which he killed a camper east of Phoenix and raped a woman in front of her boyfriend.

At a 2002 competency hearing, Comer admitted killing Larry Pritchard after eating a campfire dinner with the man. He said then that it was about time he paid for the crime.

"I killed Larry Pritchard. Stuck a gun in his ear and pulled the trigger, he's dead," Comer said, according to transcripts from the hearing. "An eye for an eye. I mean, I ended a whole bunch of innocent people's lives and changed their lives forever. Even though they're still alive, their lives are destroyed. I owe that to them. I owe it to myself, man. I was totally wrong."

Comer fought for seven years to be executed. He spent



FILE PHOTO: AP

**CONFESSED:** Robert Charles Comer said at a competency hearing: "I don't know what everybody's so scared about. Death is not that ... bad."

much of that time just proving he was competent to make the decision.

At his sentencing, he had been brought into a courtroom strapped to a wheelchair, bloodied, barely conscious and naked except for a towel after struggling with guards.

In prison, he was cited 43 times between 1988 and 2001 for infractions including making knives and shanks, fighting with prisoners and guards and setting fires in his cell.

About a dozen people demonstrated against the death penalty about a mile away from the prison entrance Tuesday.

Arizona has executed 86 people, 22 of them since resuming the death penalty in 1992.

## 21. Amendment VIII (1791)-Freedom from cruel and unusual punishment

### **“Arizona Puts Killer to Death”**

Source: Orange County Register, News 14, May 23, 2007

The 8<sup>th</sup> amendment to the United States Constitution protects the people from the state imposing cruel and unusual punishment. Some methods of death have been challenged as cruel and unusual: electric chair, gas chamber, even lethal injection has been challenged. The most recent challenge came before the courts challenging the use of the “cocktail” given to death row inmates caused pain before killing them. The Supreme Court has said that the death penalty as administered by the states is not cruel and unusual, so states can perform them if they wish.

Robert Charles Corner (50) was put to death in Arizona. He wanted to be executed and fought to drop his own appeals. He was placed on death row for killing a camper and raping a girl in front of her boyfriend. He admitted to the killing and said that he should pay for the crimes he had committed. He fought for seven years to be executed. He has caused a lot of problems in jail; setting fires and being disruptive. He wasn't afraid of dying and welcomed his execution. Although he wanted to be executed there were still people protesting the use of the death penalty.

The death penalty is a controversial social issue. Some people consider the death penalty cruel and unusual punishment, others think it is just and fair. The principle used to defend the death penalty is “an eye for an eye”. The death penalty is a state issue, so each state decides whether or not its citizens can receive death for the crime they committed. Arizona resumed using the death penalty as a punishment in 1992. Robert Charles Corner's execution was an example of protection from cruel and unusual punishment. He waived his due process to expedite the process and have the execution carried out.

Although some factions believe that the death penalty is cruel and unusual punishment, many do not and at this current time the courts side with the pro death penalty faction. The death penalty will be considered controversial as long as it is implemented. If the courts decide that the death penalty is cruel and unusual, it will be stopped because of the protection of the 8<sup>th</sup> Amendment.

# *My Constitutional Rights Project Rubric*

20  
points  
total

		Format	Complete	INC
		Cover (6pts)		
		Title Page (2pts)		
		Table of Contents (6pts)		
		Page Numbers (6pts)		
#	Amendment	<b>CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT</b>	Current Semester/ Older	INC
1	1 <sup>st</sup>	Freedom of Religion (6 pts)	C O	
2	1 <sup>st</sup>	Freedom of Speech (6 pts)	C O	
3	1 <sup>st</sup>	Freedom of the Press (6 pts)	C O	
4	1 <sup>st</sup>	Freedom of Assembly (6 pts)	C O	
5	1 <sup>st</sup>	Freedom of Petition (6 pts)	C O	
6	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Right to Keep and Bear Arms (6 pts)	C O	
7	4 <sup>th</sup>	Freedom from Unreasonable Searches and Seizures (6 pts)	C O	
8	4 <sup>th</sup>	Search Warrant based on Probable Cause (6 pts)	C O	
9	5 <sup>th</sup>	Grand Jury Indictment in capital cases (6 pts)	C O	
10	5 <sup>th</sup>	Double Jeopardy(6 pts)	C O	
11	5 <sup>th</sup>	Self-Incrimination (6 pts)	C O	
12	5 <sup>th</sup>	Due Process of Law (6 pts)	C O	
13	5 <sup>th</sup>	Eminent Domain (6 pts)	C O	
14	6 <sup>th</sup>	Right to a Speedy Public Trial (6 pts)	C O	
15	6 <sup>th</sup>	Trial by impartial jury where the crime was committed (6 pts)	C O	
16	6 <sup>th</sup>	Accused must be informed of the nature of the crime (6 pts)	C O	
17	6 <sup>th</sup>	Accused must be confronted by witness in court (6 pts)	C O	
18	6 <sup>th</sup>	Accused has a right to a lawyer (6 pts)	C O	
19	7 <sup>th</sup>	Right to a trial by Jury (6 pts)	C O	
20	8 <sup>th</sup>	Bail must be fair (appropriate for the crime committed) (6 pts)	C O	
21	8 <sup>th</sup>	No cruel and unusual punishment (6 pts)	C O	
22	9 <sup>th</sup>	All Powers not stated in the Constitution are given to the people (6 pts)	C O	
23	13 <sup>th</sup>	Abolished Slavery (6 pts)	C O	
24	14 <sup>th</sup>	Equal Protection of the law (6 pts)	C O	
25	15 <sup>th</sup>	Right to Vote (6 pts)	C O	
26	19 <sup>th</sup>	Women’s right to vote (6 pts)	C O	
27	24 <sup>th</sup>	Eliminate poll taxes and literacy tests (6 pts)	C O	
28	26 <sup>th</sup>	Lowered voting age from 21 to 18 (6 pts)	C O	
29	Art I S 9, 2	Writ of habeas corpus shall not be suspended (government must show cause why accused should not be released) (6 pts)	C O	
30	Art III S 3, 1	Treason may be charged if at least two witnesses sight the treason, or a confession is given by the accused (6 pts)	C O	
		<b>Total Completed Articles</b>	<b>180 points total</b>	
<b>Final Project Grade (10 % of your class grade)</b>				<b>200</b>